Disinvestment of Air India and Indian Airlines

†1761. SHRI ABHAY KANT PRASAD: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made with regard to the disinvestment in Air India and Indian Airlines;

(b) the time frame fixed by Government to complete the process; and

(c) the expected profit Government going to make out of the said process?

THE MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) In April 2003, the Government decide to remove both Air India Limited and Indian Airlines Limited from the disinvestment process.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Disinvestment of Metal Scrap Trade Corporation

1762. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to disinvest the Metal Scrap Trade Corporation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the MSTC is a profit making PSU;

(d) if so, the details of the profit made by the Company during the last three years, year-wise; and

(e) the reasons for the disinvestment of a profit making PSU?

THE MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) The Disinvestment Commission in its 11th Report (July 1999) examined the case of MSTC. The Commission inter-alia observed that the State trading, widely prevalent earlier, had been gradually phased out in most countries and this led to loss of significant market opportunities for the Government owned trading companies in India. The Commission

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.